

**In the Claims:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

## C L A I M S

What is claimed is:

1. (Amended) A separator for shredded tobacco comprising a column (2) provided at its bottom with a perforated plate (6) inclined towards a discharge duct (8), and further provided with an entry duct (4) for the shredded tobacco and a feed pipe 10 for air which propels the shredded tobacco upwards, ~~characterised~~ characterized in that the upper mouth of the column faces a mesh conveyor (18) movable substantially transversely to the vertical axis of the column, said conveyor forming an element by which the upward rise of the shredded tobacco is halted and is conveyed towards a member (30) for removing and conveying the tobacco.

2. (Amended) A separator as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterised by~~ further comprising a suction system (16) situated in a position overlying the conveyor belt.

3. (Amended) A separator as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterised by~~ further comprising a compressed air diffuser pipe (30).